

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

February 28, 2006

Ernest C. Shea
Project Coordinator
25x'25 Work Group
208 Melanchton Ave.
Lutherville, Md. 21093

Dear Mr. Shea:

I am greatly concerned about the energy future of the USA. Our reliance on foreign oil has been and still is a bad situation for us to be in considering that we rely heavily on political regimes that are not particularly friendly to us to supply much of our energy needs. I believe the time is right to develop a diverse mix of alternative fuels to replace our dependence on foreign oil. In my view the 25 x '25 Initiative to set a goal of supplying 25% of the nation's energy with renewable sources by 2025 is one of the best ideas I have seen to get us out of our oil fix.

Enclosed is a resolution of support for the 25 x '25 Initiative that I have signed. I am happy to be a part of this effort that seeks to help America solve its energy supply problems while bolstering agriculture. As the Governor of Montana, a state that is rich in renewable energy resources, and also as a farmer, I am passionate about both energy and agriculture. These two industries are key to the economic future of Montana and they are vitally important to the nation.

I believe breaking this country's addiction to foreign oil is imperative to our long term prosperity and security. I believe maximizing the development of renewable energy resources will be essential to achieve this goal.

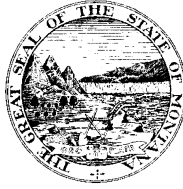
I invite you to seek the support of other western Governors for the 25 x '25 Initiative. I will be sending a copy of this resolution of support to my fellow western Governors and I will tell them that they can expect to be contacted by you. Good luck with your effort.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Schweitzer", written over a horizontal line.

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor

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RESOLUTION

Concerning Montana's support for the "25 x 25" Initiative and, in connection therewith, promoting the increased production of renewable energy by the agricultural community.

WHEREAS, Having an affordable, clean, reliable, and plentiful energy supply is critical to our economy, as well as our national and international food supply; and

WHEREAS, Current and future risks to U.S. energy security are mounting while domestic and global energy demands are growing exponentially; and

WHEREAS, Montana and the United States have tremendous renewable energy resources; and

WHEREAS, The development of a broad spectrum of renewable energy resources, including wind power, biofuels, biomass, methane digesters, ethanol, and solar, benefits the environment and will have a direct economic benefit to agricultural landowners and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, Rural communities and agriculture sectors will experience multiple benefits, including establishing additional markets for agricultural commodities; increasing farm income; creating added-value uses for crops, livestock, and their byproducts; more productive use of marginal lands; the resolution of air, water, and soil quality problems that may arise from agricultural operations, improving wildlife habitat; and creating many new job opportunities; and

WHEREAS, American agriculture is well positioned to play an expanded role in the development and implementation of new energy solutions and with appropriate technological innovation, incentives, and investments, America's farms and ranches can become the factories that produce a new generation of fuels to help meet the nation's energy needs; and

WHEREAS, "25 x 25" is an agriculturally led initiative that envisions America's farms and ranches producing 25% of America's energy supply by the year 2025 while continuing to produce abundant, safe, and affordable food and fiber; and

WHEREAS, Agriculture's role as an energy producer will have a positive effect on national security and trade imbalances, and will serve as a catalyst for rural development in Montana and the U.S.; now, therefore,

Be it resolved by the Office of the Governor of Montana:

That I, the Governor of the State of Montana, endorse the "25 x 25" vision of agriculture providing 25% of the total energy consumed in the United States by the year 2025, while continuing to produce abundant, safe, and affordable food and fiber, and:

Be it further resolved that I commit to working collaboratively with leaders of the nation's agricultural community to develop an action plan to bring this vision to life.


BRIAN SCHWEITZER

DATE

March 3, 2006